THE

MISSION

OF THE

UNITED STATES REPUBLIC

AN ORATION.

DELIVERED BY REV. JAMES LYNCH,

AT THE

PARADE GROUND, AUGUSTA, GA.,

JULY 4, 1865.

PUBLISHED IN COMPLIANCE WITH A RESOLUTION OFFERED
BY CAPT. J. E. BRYANT,
WHICH WAS UNANIMOUSLY PASSED.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

AUGUSTA, JULY 5, 1865.

Capt. J. E. Bryant, Assistant Commissioner of Freedmen:

DEAR SIR:—In compliance with a resolution adopted at our celebration of the 4th of July, on yesterday, I have the honor to send you herewith a copy of my remarks on that occasion. I offer no apology for their imperfections because they were not intended for publication, and I have not time to make the revision that would render them worthy of it. I trust, Captain, that you will celebrate many anniversaries of American Iudependence in Georgia. You have already in a few weeks contributed to the well being of the colored people to an extent that has enshrined you in their hearts, and struggling amid difficulty they cling to you as the vine to sturdy oak.

Again let me say, I obey this request of my fellow-citizens with reluctance, for the reasons I have stated. But I trust the occasion may never be forgotten, but is the augury of a day of redemption from ignorance, from prejudice and from degradation.

I am very sincerely yours,

JAMES LYNCH,

Missionary of National Ereedmen's Relief Association.

THE CELEBRATION.

The celebration of the 4th of July at Augusta, Georgia, by the colored citizens, was an occasion of surpassing interest. They formed a procession which according to the CHRONICLE AND SENTINEL numbered four thousand, headed by Lt. Col. Trowbride with a detac'.ment of his regiment; (33d U. S. C. T.,) composed of ministers, various societies, persons of the different trades and field laborers, also the children of the schools. A committee of tastefully dressed ladies presented to the procession as it was about to move three beautiful banners, bearing the following inscriptions. "Abraham Lincoln the Father of our Liberties and Savior of his Country." "Slavery and Disnnion dead!" "Freedom and Equality is our motto." Other banners were also borne along the route. Brig. Gen. Wild and the Assistant Commissioner of Freedmen were in the procession. The exercises commenced at the Parade Ground about 12 o'clock. It is estimated that ten thousaud persons were assembled. All of the speeches were well conceived and had happy effeet. The speech of Rev. James Lynch, who was chosen to deliver the oration, was by a unanimous vote requested for publication.

The platform was occupied by the citizens Commmittee, officers of U. S. army and Freedmen's Bureau, and distinguished clergyn.en, together with those who took part in the exercises.

No disorder or unnecessary tumult marred the occasion—all passed off quietly.

J. E. BRYANT,

Sub-Commissioner Freedmen.

THE
UNITED STATES,
HER
GLORY AND MISSION.

DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE WHEREAS IN A NEW EPOCH.

We meet this hour to celebrate the eighty-ninth birth-day of the Republic of the United States of America. Our minds fly back to the 4th of July, 1776, and linger there with emotions of estatic joy. We see the beginning of a new epoch in the world's history; promising to mankind an estate that the combined wisdom and philosophy of a hundred centuries had sought and not obtained. Great principles are enunciated and laid down for the foundation of government, that give equality before the law, and recognize no favorite classes in the legislation of the public councils or in the administration of Government.—The exalted wisdom, patriotism and philantrophy that produced the declaration, successfully sustained it—life and fortune were willingly pledged and periled. The strength of honest conviction gave the highest order of courage, and the belief that the Great Eternal was on the side of right imparted a hope that smiled at the idea of defeat.

GREAT BRITAIN'S STRENGTH ON COMMENCING THE WAR.

Great Britain s military prowess had been felt and acknowledged in every quarter of the globe, until St. George's cross became the symbol of invincibility. Her well disciplined armies, to whom had been bequeathed the glory of Cressy and Agincourt and a thousand well fought

fields, were as ready to cross the Atlantic as were Cæsar's legions of old to cross the Rubicon. Her mighty armadas that seemed to be the favorites of Neptune were as pleased to sail on an errand of invasion and conquest, as they would have been to ride at anchor in a broad English cove, or pass a royal review. Her royal coffers were full of gold and the national wealth afforded a revenue equal to the most gigantic warfare.

The few unfortified cities along the extensive seaboard of America—an army of undisciplined colonists, with a scarcity of war munitions—a commerce that had no protection, and was left no alternative but being swept from the seas, combined to give the Brittons the greatest confidence of success in the contest.

THE COLONIES UNCONQUERABLE.

The sequel, however, proved that the Colonies could not be subdued—the infant nation was not to be crushed—the men of Lexington and Bunker Hill were more than a match for the trained soldiery of England, and Warren and Putnam were "foemen worthy the steel" of the most distinguished generals of the mother country, while the Great Washington seemed to be under the ægis of a Divine Being who had willed that he should be the master spirit of the age—the great leader of the American people—the executor of a divine decree; than whom to conquer, it were more possible to turn the sun from his course.

AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE NOT EASILY WON, CAUSE OF SUCCESS.

And yet it must not be supposed that American Independence was easily won. The struggle entailed the loss of the best sons of the Colonies. Aceldemas reddened the land, and the bones of the slain bleached by the rains and withered by the winds of Heaven told of its horrors. Families were poverty-sticken and helpless. The wreck of fortune and the palsied effect on commerce, manufactures and industry were only borne by a fortitude commen-

surate with the glory of the object sought. An army fought without pay—sufficient food or clothing; fighting the harder for every pang of hunger and every chilling blast that blew upon an unprotected body—a sacred cause fired their hearts, every soldier was either hero or martyr—if not one of these—both.

RESULT OF THE STRUGGLE.

The tide of invasion was rolled back. The sound of the British drum no longer heard; the sunshine of peace arose on the land, and from the smoke of battle and deluge of blood, smiling through tears—the fair young Republic appeared. England bowed a haughty acknowledgment, but all the nations of the earth greeted her with soul-swelling delight; a chord is struck in the hearts of the oppressed—an activity given to the republican element of the monarchies of the old world, that made the royal palace, the imperial throne, and kingly crown, and sovereign sceptre no enviable heritage. Glorious achievements in the field now give place to triumphs of statesmanship, and the constitution renders the names of its framers immortal. And the administrations of Washington and Adams display the beautiful working of the new political machinery.

WAR OF 1812.

In 1812 the British lion roars again on the Western shores of the Atlantic; the terrible invasion utters its alarm amidst the enshrouding flames that consume the outer temple of American Liberty, but the spirit of '76 still living, seals its fate at Plattsburg, Fort Erie and New Orleans.

ADVANTAGES PCSSESSED BY THE INFANT REPUBLIC.

Never was such a scope given for political power and national developement as that possessed by the New Republic—over four thousand miles of seacoast with the finest harbors in the world, a vast undulating area with every variety of hill and vale rising in a long narrow chain of cloud-

capped mountains receding into fertile valleys intersected by rivers running from the great lakes to the gulf, and these valleys relieved by yet another great chain amid whose irregular peaks lie imbedded mines of precious minerals that ages cannot exhaust. With no rival on this continent, and the receptacle of the flower of European population, these advantages have been wondefrully improved.

PROGRESS.

Wealthy and populous cities dot the seaboard; and the highway throughout the nation marks the industry of its inhabitants. The soil is verdant with vegetation or shining with the yellow harvest. Cities, towns and villages appear ever and anon with agricultural districts. Our commerce whitens every sea with American canvass, the iron network of railway connects all parts of the country together and the magnetic telegraph brings them within conversational distance. In every part of the land, when the stillness of the Sabbath morn succeeds the hum of industry, the sound of the church-going bell is heard. School houses may be seen wherever there is need for the cradle—Acadamies are almost as numerous as county court houses —colleges may be counted by scores and societies for the promotion of science, literature and art rival those of London, Paris or Berlin. Oh! why did the secessionists desire to dissolve the Union?

THE MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC.

Events in the early history of nations and the circumstances under which they are established, like those in the first stages of manhood, are often prophetic indications of their future and final mission. The believer in "MANIFEST DESTINY" is very far from being "utopian or fanciful." Why was the virgin soil of America left for thousands of years untouched by the ploughshare, and her mighty forests unscathed by the woodman's axe; if it were not that

time's rolling ages should develop a civilization that would plant it with the seeds of enlightened ideas that had not, or could not bloom and mature in the realms of royalty? Why did invincibility blaze forth from rusty arms and sabres and depleted ranks, if it were not that a Republic in the Western world was divinely appointed to an important part in the world's drama? With change of Cowper's poetic strain we say to-day—

"America! with all thy faults I love thee still."

Do you ask what is the part of the American Republic in the world's drama? What is her mission? Read the Declaration of Independence. Hear, oh hear! "We hold these truths to be self-evident, all men are created free and equal, and endowed with certain inalienable rights among which is life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." That is a doctrine

"Both pure and sound."

That is a gospel. America's mission is to preach it by her statesmen in halls of legislation, by her ministers in the pulpit, by judicial decisions from the bench, by her orators on the platform, by her diplomatic agents in foreign climes, by her practical example in legislation, by the nurture of public institutions, and to promulgate it all over the globe by the wonderful power of her able press.

This great Republic was raised up to elevate humanity and to oppose the despotism of the universe—to scatter light where tyranny casts the blackest shades and to whisper the promise of a brighter future in the ear of him who only hears the clanking of his chains. Filled with the spirit of this mission, her future career—unchecked—shall be like a rolling ball of fire illuminating the horizon with its glory. The genius of her laws and institutions shall be engrafted on the inhabitants of the world, while North and South America from where the ocean stands in frozen solidity to where she rolls her wave around the South Pole shore, shall be under the protection of the flag of the free.

Continued disobedience to the spirit of this mission is to invite and await the fate of republics that exist only on the melancholy pages of history that chronicle their decline. This Republic was disobedient to the spirit of its mission, when from her awful throne of justice—the United States Supreme Court—it wos proclaimed that 'The black man had no rights which the white man was bound to respect." Bloody scenes in Kansas blackened the national character—license was given to political heresy—and the spirit of oppression, the greed for power, selfishness and disloyalty *swept over* the bulwarks of a patriotism which had said "Hitherto thou shalt go and no further," plunged into the vortex the great Alexander H. Stephens and others, and laid siege to the national life. Neither the hallowed associations of the past, baptized with the blood of revolutionary sires, nor the utterances of the mighty dead at Mt. Vernon, Marshfield or Monticello, lulled the storm; the beguiling eloquence of Seward and and the terrific thunder of Andy Johnson were alike unheard Amid its still more powerful mutterings, the "Peace Congress" and the resolutions of the "Committee of thirty-three" were but chips on the foaming crest of angrily plunging billows. Madness ruled the hour. The South buckled on the sword, hauled down the starry standard of the Union, gave to the breeze the emblem of revolted States, threw down the gauntlet in Charleston harbor and challenged the nation for battle on the memorable plains of Manassas. The nation accepted the challenge but but after vainly struggling to drive back the foe, her banner trailed in the dust, and her army, disordered, defeated, wounded, bleeding and humiliated, made precipitate flight to her Capital.

But even this did not make the nation realize her mission, and for nearly two years she sent her tens of thousands to Southern battle fields until the terrible carnage apparently fruitless in its results, spread apathy throughout the North, and many despaired of the union of all the States.

WHAT GAVE UNION VICTORY.

But when the nation issued by the mouth of Abraham Lincoln an edict of freedom to the slaves and commenced legislating in behalf of an oppressed race, when she realized that Divine Providence had united the destiny of both races and God had

made the deliverance of the slave from bondage the *sine qna non* of the deliverance of the nation from the consuming fires of rebellion; then was foreign sympathy with treason rebuked and the chances of foreign aid for rebellion curtailed ; then did Grant loom up in glory, and with your Shermans direct armies clothed with invincibility. And to-day from ocean to ocean, from the lakes to the gulf the old flag proudly flaunts in the summers breeze, the emblem of Freedom, Justice and Hope.

WHAT THE NATION HAS DONE IN FOUR YEARS FOR THE COLORED MAN.

What has the nation done for the colored man during the past four years ? It has abolished slavery in the District of Columbia, acknowledged the governments of Hayti and Liberia and entertained a colored ambassador ; it has admitted into the army and navy over two hundred and fifty thousand colored men as soldiers and sailors; it has commissioned colored men as field, line and staff officers; it has admitted to the bar of the Supreme Court a colored lawyer; it has repealed proscriptive laws that did not allow colored men to carry the mails or testify in U. S. courts of justice; it has by constitutional amendment abolished slavery in all of its vast domain; it has acknowledged the citizenship of the colored man, and wherever the United States has exclusive jurisdisdiction the colored man has equal rights with the white. It has instituted a guardianship over his interests in the transition state, by the establishment of the Freedmen's Bureau, with that great general and good man, O. O. Howard, at its head, who is laboring with all the zeal that characterized him when leading the centre column of Gen. Sherman's army, The importance of this bureau may be estimated by the service which Capt J. E. Bryant, Assistant Commissioner, renders in this city and vicinity to the freed people. Seventy-five thousand colored children in the Southern States are being educated in schools sustained by Northern charity and taught by highly qualified teachers. The bravery, fidelity and capacity of the colored race has received national commendation and is supported by the highest official testimony. The freedom of the colored race is as unalterable as were the laws of the Medes and Persians. The iron pen of Divine Providence has written out the title in letters of America's best blood. Earth and Hell may conspire, but will be as Xerxes lashing the waves of the Hellespont with chains to make them placid

NEGRO SLAVERY WITHOUT WARRANT.

The colored man's original right to freedom is found in the first chapter of the book of Genesis. We find there that God has made an inventory of whatever should be property, but the colored man does not happen to be an item in the inventory Now a lawyer would allow inference that he could not according to Divine law be considered *property*, and must be one of those to have "dominion over the fowl," &c.

ANDREW JOHNSON AND NEGRO SUFFRAGE.

The Chief Executive feels that he has no power to influence the States of the South to give colored citizens political rights or privileges in common with the other citizens of these States. I have no doubt that this decision meets with hearty approval in many quarters, yet there are differences of opinion respecting the power of the President in this matter which may find expression in the subsequent elections at the North and even at the next Congress. Sufficient argument can be produced to show that it is quite as constitutional to do some things as it is to do some others.

I believe President Andrew Johnson, God bless him! desires the happiness of my race. The sublime period of his life, when, from the steps of the Tennesseean Capitol he proclaimed liberty for the black man in his own native State, and promised before God to be his "*Moses*," is still fresh in our memories, causing us to linger about the White House in fond affection and brightest hope.

It is urged that the colored man is too ignorant to *vote*. It was urged that he was too ignorant to *fight*, but the highest military authority, (West Point inclusive,) tells us that he fights as well as the white man. Ignorance is to be deplored always, but it is not fraught with the greatest danger to this republic, for that is found in wickedness and disloyalty. A sham Presidential election was held in Beaufort on the 8th of November last, the plantation people throughout the region came in and voted, they thought the election was real, but not one of them voted for McClellan. The colored man's vote will always be on the side of Union; and on other questions it will be controlled by the political leaders and party managers. What then can there be in his enfranchisement to alarm the patriotic citizen ?

NEGRO HATE AND PREJUDICE.

The Democratic party has always had the ignorant in it.—That party seems to like ignorant voters, and yet they start when the proposition is made to enfranchise colored men. Now this is not honest. It is not because they are solicitous for the welfare of the country, it is not because they fear the effect of ignorance; it is prejudice—that hatred of the colored man—that opposition to his progress—a fear of his development—all of which is without reason or apology. Why hate the colored race? They have tilled your lands and made them bring forth the great staples that have enriched you, affording luxurious comforts; they have nursed your children in infancy and toiled for them while at the school and college ; they have ever rejoiced when you rejoiced, sorrowed when you sorrowed; meekly and submissively have they borne your restrictions, punishments and cruelties; they have followed the armies of Beauregard, Wade Hampton and Lee and others, and borne your sons from the gory field to a place of safety and staunched their bleeding wounds.

Even now under the changed state of affairs they harbor no feelings of malice for their former masters. Why hate the colored man ? God made him—Jesus died for him—Heaven is prepared for him ; for him the sun shines, the rains descend, the fields produce vegetation, and Jehovah rules the universe as well as for you. Why hate him because his skin is of a darker hue ? Why hate him because he is not educated ? The laws of your State have made it felony for teacher to teach and scholor to learn. Have not the laws of the Southern States shut out the light from him and chained his mind by grievious oppression ? Oh white man—favored of the earth, you cannot, you will not, you are too great not to be good. Slavery is the cause of prejudice, its virus has poisoned the feelings you have toward the colored race. Where slavery has not existed and its influence has not been prevailing, this prejudice does not exist. The child to cherish it, must be taught it.

PREJUDICE AGAINST COLOR NOT NATURAL.

Tell me not that prejudice is natural. You will see a man who will be willingly folded in the arms of a man of ebony hue if he be his body servant, and yet shrink from him as though his

body exhaled contagion if he be an educated man—a highly respectable man and a boarder at a hotel or passenger in a railroad car or stage coach. When I can believe that nature has journeymen that makes men, then can I believe prejudice is natural and not before. Why does not the color of the Japanese, of the Chinaman or of the Indian excite a similar prejucice; or if their color be not so dark as the average of the colored race of the United States why is their not a proportionate prejudice ? There is no such prejudice in the Old World as in this country. Alexander Dumas the great dramatist and novelist, a colored man, is the guest of the princes of Europe. His father, a colored man, was a renowned general in Napoleon's time: his son lately married the widow Princess Narishkin. Count Pushkin the great Russian poet was a colored man, so was Baron Feutchtersleben under Secretary of public instruction in Austria The first Duke of Tuscany, Alexsandro Medici, who reigned from 1530 to 1537, was a mulatto, the Emperor Charles V, gave his daughter to the colored Duke, his portrait with wooly hair and thick lips is still seen in the public gallery of Florence among the Dukes of Tuscany. The black Soloque ex-Emperor of Hayti is a welcome guest at the greatest fetes of the Tuilleries, or as a visitor of the highest nobility in France.

Prejudice against the colored race is on account of their condition which is a consequence of slavery. Slavery to protect itself, has taught that the colored man belongs to an inferior order of creation. Slavery is no more. The colored man enters into a new life and beholds a brighter destiny.

WHAT THE COLORED MAN ASKS.

He asks to stay in the land of his birth, to till the soil and labor in the workshop, and to fill positions of usefulness under these bright skies that smiled on his infancy. He asks and demands protection in the enjoyment of his liberty, which is only secured by equality before the law. Social equality possesses not his most airy dreams. While he toils for the white man; while he contributes his share to the development of the resources of this great State , he asks the white man who is blessed with superior culture, wealth and prestige, to give him sympathetic encouragement in mental, moral and religious development.

THE NATIVE INTELLECT OF THE COLORED RACE.

The colored race is susceptible of the highest stage of development. Although we have been hindered by proscription and have had "wind and tide" against us, yet we have worthy representatives in the pulpit, at the bar, in the medical profession and in the professor's chair. In art they have given evidences of genius; Bannister and Chaplain and Bowers make life and nature glow upon the canvass, and the records of the Patent Office in Washington prove their skill in mechanism. The fervid eloquence and Baconian logic of Douglas and Langston, of Garnet and Remond has oft thrilled the nation and borne down like a mighty torrent upon oppression, silencing the silly pratings about natural inferiority. And as to how well they have fought in the great war just ended, [pointing to Gen. Wild, who led a division of colored troops] let that one armed hero and soldier upon whose brow the laurels of martial victory are yet fresh, tell —I am unequal to the task. Of their capacity to take care of themselves—to be satisfied—is only to look at the assessors books in the North and to visit those regions in the South where they have been blessed with freedom for a year or more.

They tell us we are the descendants of Ham—the naughty son of Noah. Then our race first gave science, art and learning to the world. Egyptian civilization has been transmitted to every succeeding nation on the face of the globe. The sons of Ham founded Egypt. Do you doubt it? Then you doubt the word of God. In the 105th psalm, at the 23d verse, we read as follows: "Israel also came into the land of Egypt and Jacob sojourned in the land of Ham."

THE SOUTHERN STATES.

There is virtue, patriotism and religion in the South, and as the rising sun of peace and prosperity drives away the darkness of the past, it will be seen standing out upon the foreground amid the wreck of civil war, fresher and brighter than ever before. The people of the North are resposible, to some extent, for this fratricidal war which has cost so much blood and treasure. They have enriched themselves off the profits of slave labor, and encouraged the system among you, and when the slave system threatened the creation of a power destructive to their vital in-

terests, they set their faces against it. No wonder the South looked upon them as "Satan correcting sin."

Slavery has been the basis of Southern wealth—it has gone down in the struggle, the Southern people will accept the result, and will construct upon the basis of free labor, rearing a superstructure before which the past pales in insignificance.

THE SOUTH NOT DEGRADED BY THE RESULT OF THE CIVIL WAR.

The South need not be stung by defeat. Her contest with the North has exhibited unsurpassed military skill and heroism, rivaling Marathon, Thermopylæ, Austerlitz and Lexington. She need not feel humiliated because her ideas have been changed and policy altered, for the North has had to change hers on the slavery question. If the North has conquered the South, it is because God conquered the North. If the South bows to the North, it is because the North bowed to God.

Now that the thunderings of artillery are no longer heard, the flash of musketry no more seen, the groans of the dying lost in the stillness of death, the shedding of blood ceased and the constitutional amendment stands like a rainbow in the national sky, let North and South, white and black shake hands—join hearts—shout for joy—gird up their loins and with a patriotism as exalted as the national grandeur, a love of justice and mercy like that which is Divine, and a hope as high as the objects of promise, go on in the pursuit of further development.

"Happiness depends as nature shows,
Less on exterior things than most suppose;
Vigilant over all that he has made,
Kind Providence attends with gracious aid,
Bids equity throughout his works prevail,
And weighs the nations in an even scale."

THE COLORED RACE DEMANDS JUSTICE OF THE WHITE MAN.

All that my race asks of the white man is justice. Give him that, and exact what you please, it will be freely accorded. The white man may refuse us justice. God forbid! But it cannot be withheld long; for there will be an army marshalled in the Heavens for our protection, and events will transpire by which the hand of Divine Providence will wring from you in wrath, that which should have been given in love.

"The Sun of Justice may withdraw his beams
Awhile from eartly kin, and sit concealed
In dark recess, pavilioned round with clouds:
Yet let not guilt presumptuous rear her crest.
Nor virtue droop despondent: soon these clouds,
Seeming eclipse, will brighten into day,
And in Majestic splendor He will rise,
With healing and with terror on His wings."

I stand here to-day beseeching the white man to remember that his God is the black man's God also. How wonderful is the power of God. His presence is shown everywhere in the works of His creation. Go to the North Pole where the seas freeze—roam over earth's varied surface; now gazing upon the boundless forest arrayed in living green and waving majestic branches as if in humble adoration of their Maker; and then the towering mountain chain gilt with the mellow sunlight, or bathed in the sullen cloud; the unmeasured plain, or the wide sloping vale ; the murmuring rivulet monotonously basing the vocal music of the singing birds, or the long rapid river hurrying to the mighty deep ; ride upon the great waters where swelling billows heave their bosoms to the clouds and toss upon a foaming crest huge vessels as feathers upon the whirlwind. Look at the storm with its rolling thunders, its forked lightnings and heaven-gushing torrents; the hurricane that with destructive blasts uproots the oak of centuries and laughs at the strength of art. Turn up thine eye and see the heavens spread out like a curtain beneath His feet, lit up by the dazzling orb by day, or by night by the sparkling stars that shine in silver clusters. Look beyond to his abiding place, and with the telescope of the Revelator see his throne in the highest of Heavens, from which issues a dazzling light of glory, too great for mortal vision, but enveloping millions of spiritual inhabitants who in an unceasing ecstacy of joy sing and shout the praises of the Eternal. He spake, and all this came forth with the readiness of the edict which authorized it. He made man a "little lower than the angels," and "gave him dominion over the fowl and the brute."

He covered his creation with the waters of the deluge, washed from the vast earth all that dwelt thereon, and rode upon those heaven-towering waters of destruction, an ark with his chosen, who for forty days and forty nights looked out upon oceanic solitude, and the howling storm and fiery lightning as

they enjoyed the serenity of a babe, smiling on its mother's bosom.

Nations rise up nourishing arts and sciences until the minds of men drift through God's universe and measures a burning world, or go down into the bowels of the earth and anylize its elements and treasures, extending their conquest to distant seas, boasting of mighty cities and temples of art, marshaling armies whose tread shake the earth, but loving not *justice*. Their monarchs drop their sceptres—their cities become smouldering ruins, and graveyard silence reigns where hummed the noise of moving millions.

"All hath impress of a Maker's frown."

THE LOYAL PEOPLE OF THE REPUCLIC WILL VOW TO-DAY.

Auspicious are the enthusiastic and unequaled celebrations of this day all over our broad land. The national escutcheon no longer stained by slavery, patriotism strikes a higher note and joy takes a mightier swell. The structure of this Democratic Republic having stood the shock of civil war, Hope says "Write on the frontlets of the nation, thy existense, as long as time shall be." From the Maine forest to the gulf—the Atlantic to the Pacific—in crowded city and quiet village—by hillside and valley—the people are welcoming home the returned and scared defenders of the national life, and singing of their heroic deeds—their minds, too, are going in the strength of fond affection to the thousand battle fields, furrowed by the cannon, or to the silent graveyards where the war has planted the yew tree and cypress; and to Ford's theatre where a horrible tragedy bereaved a nation, and gave an untimely death to God's chosen instrument, who piloted the nation amid all the four years peril of the most awful civil war upon which the sun has ever looked down. Yes, the nation will go to the cemetery at Springfield to-day, and shedding the tear-drop on the yet fresh grave of ABRAHAM LINCOLN, will swear by him, and all their orphans and widows, and slain, and wounded, and broken-hearted, to maintain the honor of the starry standard—*the Union of these States*—THE LIBERRTY OF ALL MEN—FOREVER AND FOREVER.